



## **COVID-19 Mitigation Efforts for the Start of the 2021-22 School Year**

*Revised February 2, 2022*

*Previous plans linked at the end of this document*

The Hamilton School district is preparing for another successful school year. Since the start of the pandemic, the School district has been responsive to the needs of our students and families. We will continue to utilize mitigation efforts that have allowed schools to be open for the entire school year. For the 2021-22 school year the district will continue to do the following:

- Continuing multiple layered mitigation efforts such as
  - increased air exchange and filtration,
  - promoting students and staff to monitor their own health and to stay home if not feeling well
  - frequent hand hygiene, and
  - enhanced cleaning/disinfection protocols
  
- Utilizing the Waukesha County Health Department recommendations to make informed decisions
- Promoting students and staff to monitor their health closely and to stay home when sick.
- The district will follow Board Policies; specifically [453.3, Communicable Diseases](#) and [453.3, Procedures for Controlling Communicable Diseases](#).
- The district will communicate any changes to mitigation efforts on a timely basis. (See Hamilton School District communications located on the [COVID-19: A Coronavirus Response Page](#).)

The district will continue to respond as new information or conditions change regarding COVID. Our primary goal is to keep students and staff safe while creating a great learning environment for students.

## **Recommendations for the Hamilton School District for the 2021-22 School Year**

### **SELF-MONITORING**

The district will continue to ask students and staff to self monitor their symptoms:

- Monitor for COVID-19 symptoms - fever, cough, fatigue, sore throat, etc.
- Stay home if you are sick and report an absence and symptoms to your school's attendance office.
- Students and staff members should stay home when they have signs or symptoms of any infectious illness and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care
- Return to school after you are symptom-free for 24 hours and/or have secured a negative COVID test.

### **MASKS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**

Masks will be strongly recommended, but not required for all students and staff. Recent CDC guidelines recommend masks be worn by all people in a school, including those who are fully vaccinated. Federal regulations still mandate the use of masks while on buses, and the district will continue to follow federal, state and county health department regulations.

The district reserves the right to require masks if a significant community or school outbreak of COVID-19 occurs. The district will utilize data from New daily confirmed cases reported within Hamilton School District as an average over the last 7 days from the Wisconsin Department of Health to monitor the Hamilton School District COVID activity. If the positive 7 day average rises above 9.5 cases for 3 consecutive days, the district may require masks for a period of 14 days, then reassess the situation at that time. The district will also take into account the number of student and staff cases within schools and student absenteeism rates. Masking requirements may be different at different grade levels.

### **MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

Continuing multiple layered mitigation efforts such as increased air exchange and filtration, frequent hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning/disinfection protocols, signage and communication, etc.

### **EMERGENCY REMOTE LEARNING**

Will continue for students who are in isolation or quarantine due to COVID

## **TIMELY AND TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION**

The district will continue to update the COVID dashboard which includes the reported number of positive cases within schools. The District will collaborate with the Waukesha County Health Department to assess any community-based spread in a classroom, grade level or school.

The District will use student attendance data, school disease data, and community and region data to inform decisions and COVID response next steps. Families are encouraged to monitor disease and vaccine data found on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services [website](#).

## **POSITIVE COVID CASES**

Positive cases should be reported to the school district so proper isolation and quarantine dates can be verified by district nurses. The Waukesha County Health Department is available for consultation as needed. Students will have access to Emergency Remote Learning or be offered other opportunities to continue learning opportunities.

## **RESPONDING TO POSITIVE CASES - SCHOOL-BASED EXPOSURE**

Parents/guardians of students and staff members who are deemed to be a school-based exposure will receive a notification email if there are over 15% of cases within the classroom or school.

## **HOUSEHOLD CLOSE CONTACTS**

### **Not Fully Vaccinated without Symptoms**

Students and staff will need to quarantine:

- Quarantine for 5 days from last contact with a positive case. May return on day number 6 wearing a mask
  - If an individual becomes symptomatic, they should stay home for 5 days from onset of symptoms or may return with a negative PCR test

### **Fully Vaccinated without Symptoms**

- May attend school as long as are asymptomatic and wear a mask through day 10 or until they produce a negative test result
  - If an individual becomes symptomatic, they should stay home for 5 days from onset of symptoms or may return with a negative PCR test

## **TRANSPORTATION**

All routes are expected to return to 100 percent capacity. Masks are required per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Order](#) that is in place for all mass transportation, regardless of vaccination status. The Order also applies to all bus travel related to co-curricular events and field trips. Hand sanitizer will be provided on all District buses, and increased ventilation and cleaning protocols in between routes will continue.

## **FOOD SERVICE**

The district will continue to use best practices, such as:

- Touchless/no touch point of sale, student ID's with barcode
- No shared utensil food stations
- Individually wrapped condiments
- Staggering arrival times in the cafeteria
- Spacing out tables: less students eating at once (one grade level at a time everywhere but HHS)

## **VISITOR MANAGEMENT**

Visitors and volunteers will be allowed in schools, with the expectation that all visitors self-screen for COVID symptoms before entering.

## **K-12 CO-CURRICULAR ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES**

All student activities will resume in-person. Coaches, advisors and volunteers will be required to self-screen daily for COVID symptoms prior to attending co-curricular activities. An accurate roster will be maintained by coaches and advisors and daily attendance will be kept to allow for notification of a school-based exposure when necessary. The District will follow WIAA guidelines for 9-12th grade sports.

## **PREVIOUS PLANS**

- [August 2021](#)
- [August 2020](#)